Hindustan Copper Limited

2924. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Copper Ltd. propose to step up import substitution and self-reliance in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the schemes worked out by the Hindustan Copper Ltd. for import substitution and self-sufficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) With the available and known ore reserves, it is not possible to be self-sufficiency in copper through indigenous production in near future. However, concerted efforts are being made to enhance the indigenous copper production. The important schemes proposed by Hindustan Copper Ltd. for enhancing the indigenous production for the VIIIth Plan, subject to the availability of funds, are:—

I. Western Sector (Rajasthan):
   (i) Khetri Smelter and refinery expansion from 31,000 to 45,000 tonnes per year,
   (ii) Kolihan mine expansion from 0.6 to 0.75 million tonnes of ore per year,
   (iii) Linkage of Banwas deposit with Khetri Mines,
   (iv) Modernisation of the Khetri concentrator.

II. Central Sector (Madhya Pradesh):
   Expansion of Malanjkhand mine from 2 to 2.3 million tonnes of ore per year.

III. Eastern Sector (Bihar):
   (i) Development of Chapri-Sidheshwar Mine of 0.75 million tonnes capacity with a matching concentrator.
   (ii) Expansion of modernisation of existing ICC Group of Mines in Singhbum Belt.

Grant of Mining Licence

2925. SHRI MENTAY PADMA-NABHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Indian Bureau of Mines, with regard to grant of "Mining Licence";

(b) whether any effort has been made to simplify and liberalise the functioning of the Indian Bureau of Mines;

(c) the number of applications pending with the Hyderabad Office;

(d) whether it is a fact that procedural delays are raised by the local offices of the Bureau; and

(e) the steps being taken to review the functioning of the Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Powers to grant mining leases (licences) vest with the concerned State Government. In terms of the provisions of the Mineral Concession Rules 1960, an application for the grant or renewal of a mining lease is necessarily required to be accompanied by a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government though, for grant of new mining leases, the approved of mining plan may be submitted within six months after the precise area proposed to be granted to the applicant is communicated by the State Government. Powers for approving such mining plans have been vested in the Indian Bureau of Mines by the Central Government.

(b) The Indian Bureau of Mines is always striving to streamline and improve its working and has taken steps to decentralise powers and delegate them to the field units; to eliminate errors in the mining plans submitted by the parties leading to delay in their approval simplified guidelines for preparation of such plans have been prepared; a system of periodic interaction between officers of the Bureau and the mine owners as well as persons recongised as qualified for